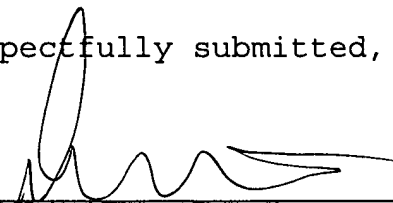


REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, restriction was required as between Group I Claims 1-3, 9-11 and 17-19, drawn to a system for retrieving (searching) a plurality records from database using a nearest neighbor method and Group II Claims 4-8 and 12-16, drawn to a system for record key fields partitioning and converting key field record into feature value. In response, Applicant hereby elects Group I Claims 1-3, 9-11 and 17-19 for an examination on the merits, without prejudice to Applicants' right to subsequently file a divisional application directed to the nonelected claims.

A favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

It is hereby certified that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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On December 22, 2003
By Edna Chapa